BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. H. J. ROBINSON, Medical Officer of Health, for the Year ended 31st December, 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1919.

From its perusal you will at once perceive that although the war, so far as hostilities and actual fighting, was over during the whole of the year, we are yet far from being in either normal or ideal conditions. Many are the problems you have still to face and try to solve, especially those connected with the housing conditions and requirements of the district. You have already had under discussion reports, I have felt it my duty to make on these and kindred matters and have arranged for the provision of some 138 new houses and in some of the townships have selected and approved sites. In that suggested number of 138 only a few of the back-to-back houses were taken into consideration but as these will have to be ultimately dealt with, other and more houses will be needed. This matter has already been discussed with Inspectors from the Ministry of Health, with whom it has always been a pleasure and profit to confer. That in these matters it will be your earnest endeavour to do your utmost for the best interests of the district, I am assured by my experience of your work and interest I have known and appreciated for the past 14 years.

The general health of the district I consider good, and notwithstanding the epidemics of the year, the death-rate is satisfactory. The birth-rate is, of course, very much lower than it ought to be, notwithstanding the war, but there are slight evidences of improvement. Other matters are discussed under the various items of the report.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION.

The population of the district at the last census—1911—was 20,292, it is now under 19,000. The Registrar General has supplied the following figures for the estimates of birth and death rates—for birth-rate a population of 18,266 and for death-rate 17,535.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The district is situated in North-East Lancashire and has an area of 41,774 acres. It is very hilly in character, ranging from 200 to 1,831 feet above sea level, the mean being about 650 feet.

The subsoil is mostly clay, and the district is very damp, the rainfall averaging over 40 inches. The summer of 1919 was exceptionally dry, the rainfall being under 38 inches—there was rain on 206 days during the year.

The staple industry is cotton weaving, for which a damp atmosphere is very favourable. Coal mining and dairy farming are the other principal occupations.

Speaking generally the houses in the district are in good condition being well built and stone fronted—the two-story type prevailing. Quite a large number of householders are very thrifty and own their own houses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-Rate.—The total number of births registered in the district during the year was over 234—males 127, females 107 ; and of these 9 (3 males and 6 females) were illegitimate. These figures differ slightly from those supplied for statistical purposes by the Registrar General, which are total births, males 121, females 106 ; illegitimate, males 3 and females 8.

The annual birth-rate for the district for 1919 is nearly 12·43 per thousand of the population, which is much lower than the average for England and Wales, which is 18.5.

The following table gives the birth-rates from 1913 to 1919 :

Year.	*Births.*	*Rate per* 1,000 *of Population.*
1913	347	16·92
1914	346	16·87
1915	302	15·27
1916	312	15·25
1917	282	14·66
1918	227	12·00
1919	234	12·43

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths, of residents belonging to the district, as supplied by the Registrar General, is 238 (males 106, females 132) which, equals a death-rate of 13·5 as compared with 14·6 of the previous year. The average death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1919 was 13.8 per thousand of the population.

The following tables, as supplied by the Registrar General, will be of interest as showing the birth and death rates for the year and mean of 10 years, 1909-1918, and also rates for the whole country.

TABLE No. 1.

BURNLEY RURAL.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Epidemic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
1918.....	12·0	14·6	0·35	0·88	79
1919	12·4	13·5	0·34	0·51	101
Mean of 10 years— 1909—1918.....	16·9	13·1	0·70	0·68	107
Increase or Decrease in 1919 on—					
Previous year.....	+0·4	−1·1	−0·01	−0 37	+22
Ten years' average ...	−4·5	+0·4	−0·36	−0·17	−6

(See Table No. 2 on page 4)

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year was 23 (males 8, females 15), which equals an infantile mortality of 101 per thousand births, calculated on the number of births as given by the Registrar General as 127. The rate for 1918 was 79, and for the average of 10 years—1909-1918—107.

The chief causes of death were as given in the following table which also gives the ages and causes of death in all cases belonging to the district.

(See Table 3 on page 5.)

TABLE No. 2.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 yrs)	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18·5	13·8	0·01	0·00	0·10	0·03	0·07	0·13	0·47	9·59	89	23·9	92·5	6·2	1·3
96 Great Towns including London..... (Census populations exceeding 50,000).	19·0	13·8	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·04	0·07	0·14	0·45	12·24	93	29·2	92·3	6·9	0·8
148 Smaller Towns ..... (Censes populations 20,000—50,000).	18·3	12·6	0·01	0·00	0·10	0·03	0·08	0·12	0·39	8·67	90	16·6	93·6	4·9	1·5
London.....	18·3	13·4	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·03	0·05	0·18	0·47	16·22	85	44·7	91·2	8·6	0·2

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

TABLE No. 3.

VITAL STATISTICS.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1919.

Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring, within or without the District.

CAUSE OF DEATH—ALL CAUSES (Certified and Uncertified).	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards.
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Influenza	23	...	...	2	1	1	7	6	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	...	...	...	1	3	1	4	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer Malignant Disease	25	...	...	...	...	...	3	12	10
Meningitis	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	28	...	...	...	1	...	2	12	13
Bronchitis	28	2	1	...	1	...	...	10	14
Pneumonia (All forms)	18	3	5	3	...	2	...	4	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
Diarrhoea, &c. (Under 2 years)	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Congenital Debility,&c.	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violence, apart from Suicide	5	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	1
Suicide	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	63	3	...	1	...	2	7	16	34
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the year no action has been taken under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, and in the rural areas it is inevitable that much of the surface and slop water should find it way into the streams.

Only a few of the larger farms and houses have their own septic tanks and filters, and the treatment of sewage in a small way is not always successful, largely on account of the irregularity and unequal discharge of the sewage.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following townships have their own sewage disposal works, viz. :—

Township.	*Treatment.*
Huncoat... ...	Open septic tanks and double contact filters.
Sabden	Continuous settlement percolating filters and irrigation.
Worsthorne ...	Septic tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks.
Foulridge ...	Septic tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks.

The following townships are connected to the Burnley Corporation Sewers under agreements between the Burnley Rural District Council and the Burnley Corporation, viz. :—Briercliffe, Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Read, Reedley Hallows and Simonstone. The Whinney Hill district of the township of Altham is connected with the Accrington and Church Joint Sewerage Board's Outfall Works at Copy Clough.

I should like to draw attention again to the unsatisfactory state of the conveniences in the villages of Wheatley Lane, Higham and Cliviger. As these villages have no proper sewer it is impossible to carry out any great improvements, so far as abolishing the present insanitary system of tank closets or the antiquated drains. As soon as these villages are sewered, every endeavour will be made to convert these tank closets into fresh water closets. No complaint has been received of the omission to empty pail closets. Most of these are emptied by the Council's own workmen and the duty regularly performed. During the year we have records that :—

3 privies have been converted to pail closets.
1 tank closet has been converted to clean water closet.
5 additional pail closets have been built.

Approximate number of privy middens in district	771
Approximate number of pail closets in district	820
Approximate number of waste water closets in district	2580
Approximate number of fresh water closets in district	604

SCAVENGING.

The following townships are scavenged by the Council's own vehicles and labour. Altham, Barley, Briercliffe, Cliviger, Goldshaw Booth, Hapton, Higham, Huncoat, Old Laund Booth, Northtown, Read, Reedley Hallows, Roughlee, Sabden, Simonstone, Worsthorne and a portion of Habergham Eaves. Blacko, Foulridge, Ightenhill, and portions of Huncoat and Habergham Eaves are scavenged by contract. Dunnockshaw is the only place where the nightsoil and house refuse are removed by the property owners. I am pleased to say that the work has been done by the contractors in a satisfactory manner.

The following summary shows how the district is divided for the purposes of scavenging and the quantities of house refuse and nightsoil removed. These figures only relate to the work done by the Council's own employees.

TOWNSHIP.	Ashpits emptied.	Ash Bins emptied.	Privy Pails emptied.	Privy Tanks emptied.	Loads of Ashes removed.	Loads of Nightsoil removed.
Briercliffe and part of Reedley Hallows ...	3923	6569	3527	399	918	651
Hapton and Huncoat	1422	9939	7637	10	922	529
*Altham, Simonstone, Read and part of Northtown.....	392	3022	2482	34	268	115
Sabden and part of Northtown.....	781	4114	3140	14	705	197
Old Laund Booth, Barley, Higham, Goldshaw Booth, Roughlee Booth and part of Reedley Hallows.....	744	2360	10730	612	449	1013
Worsthorne, Cliviger and part of Habergham Eaves	903	10038	10174	339	890	574
Totals	8165	36042	37690	1408	4152	3079

*For Half-year.

4 Ashpits have been abolished during the year and 10 galvanised iron dust bins substituted.

The refuse in all the townships is disposed of by filling disused quarries, and hollows in fields, and suitable places are becoming more difficult to secure. In this connection I desire to emphasise my last year's remarks in relation to Briercliffe.

The tip in the village of Briercliffe will last probably about 12 months. After it is filled there are no other tips available.

There are small destructors on the market suitable for small townships, and I am of opinion that it will be necessary for the Council to consider the provision of a destructor at an early date.

Considerable difficulty is now experienced with regard to the disposal of nightsoil. A few years ago it was scarcely necessary to ask farmers for permission to deposit it on their land. In one or two cases they refused to allow us the use of refuse tips because by mistake other farmers had received the nightsoil. All this is now changed. Several times recently farmers have positively refused to have it on their land, especially at Cliviger. In order to dispose of it, it has to be carted a considerable distance, and this is a costly matter.

As the villages get sewered and the privies become converted to water closets, the quantity of nightsoil will decrease to a large extent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the district receives its water supply from the Council's own water works and from adjoining public authorities.

In the more rural parts it is inevitable that there should exist a number of private supplies. From the users of these supplies comes the complaints of pollution and insufficiency of the water supply. Constant supervision is entailed in order to prevent pollution. During the year it was found desirable to enforce the repiping of one of these supplies under the Public Health (Water) Act. There is now an abundant supply of wholesome water to these houses.

The following particulars show the principal water supply to the various townships :—

Township.	*Source of Supply.*
Altham and Simonstone	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council and Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
Barley, Blacko, Old Laund Booth, Wheatley Carr and Reedley Hallows	Principally from Nelson Corporation ; remainder from private supplies.
Habergham Eaves, Worsthorne and Ightenhill	Principally from Burnley Corporation ; remainder from private supplies.

Township.	*Source of Supply.*
Briercliffe, Cliviger, Read and Foulridge	From the Councils own water works Each township has a separate supply.
Huncoat	From Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
Sabden, Hapton and Dunnockshaw	From water works owned privately.
Goldshaw Booth and Roughlee Booth	Have no systematic supply.
Northtown	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council.
Higham	From Nelson Corporation.

All the sources of water supply in the district are primarily upland surface water. The supply is constant.

At Briercliffe an extension to the water supply is in contemplation and the Council are in negotiation for the purchase of Jockey Springs and its gathering ground.

Foulridge Water.—Once again during the past very dry summer the drift and well which supplies Foulridge completely failed, but fortunately there was a plentiful supply in the centre of the village Immediately your Surveyor had a petrol pump set to work to lift the water from the well and this was kept at work night and day during the acute shortage of water. Much waste of water had been experienced, the consumption per head had risen to **20** gallons per head per day, which was very excessive during a time of drought.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

30 written complaints were received and immediate attention given to same.

The following nuisances were discovered and notified to the responsible persons :—

Accumulation of nightsoil, refuse, etc.	17
Insanitary privy pail	31
Conveniences in filthy condition	4
Cellar flooded	2
Insufficient closet accommodation	3
Drains blocked	12
Dwelling in filthy condition	1
Defective eaves gutter, etc.	28
Insanitary privy midden.....	4

Insanitary stable midden	1
Block drains in shippen	2
Defective house roofs	13
Other nuisances	14
Insufficient accommodation for house refuse	32
Defective waste water closets	22
Houses in damp state	37
Defective water pipes and fittings	9
Defective slop waste pipes	20
Water closet blocked	3
Defective Ashpits	20
Defective surface water drains	4
Defective condition of floors	14
Inadequate water supply	12
Piggeries in a filthy condition	1
Dangerous Structures	3
Total	309

In connection with the above, 107 informal notices were served upon owners of premises where defects existed, and 15 were personally interviewed.

16 statutory notices were served, including Closing Orders under the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909. It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings against any person during the year.

The following figures give the number of visits the Inspector has paid to each township during the year.

Altham	11	Hapton	30
Barley	2	Higham	2
Blacko	17	Huncoat	32
Briercliffe	42	Ightenhill	9
Cliviger	24	Old Laund Booth	15
Dunnockshaw	2	Simonstone and Reed	29
Foulridge	20	Reedley Hallows	18
Goldshaw Booth	4	Roughlee	7
Habergham Eaves	12	Sabden	23
		Worsthorne	20

Total 319

The nuisances principally abated have been those relating to defective drains, dustbins, and sanitary pails. The drains of one block of property have been entirely relaid.

Great difficulty is still experienced in getting work done, and the growl of the property owners against the RentsRestriction Act grows with the increase of the cost of repairs, and they are generally determined to do as little as possible to their property under existing conditions. Although this is not always a wise procedure for neglected property quickly grows worse, one is bound to sympathise with many whose chief source of income is derived from property, for a week's rent is swallowed up with the most trivial repair. With rings and combines in the building trade, I fail to see that costs will be allowed to fall. Consequently there will be no alternative but to face the problem of rents which, as Dr. Addison suggested, may easily rise to £1 per week. This, of course, does not really fall within my province, and is only called forth by the great reluctance manifested by property owners to spend money on improvements or repairs without being able to recoup themselves upon their outlay.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the elementary schools are generally satisfactory. The same remark applies also to the water supplies, with the exception of Roughlee Church of England School which is still without an adequate supply of good water. This of course will be remedied when the scheme to obtain water in bulk from the Nelson Corporation for the Crow Trees area is completed.

Numerous visits have been made to schools where infectious diseases have occurred, and I have made several examinations of the school children.

Owing to the prevalence of Influenza and Measles, I found it necessary to recommend the closing of the following schools.

For Influenza : Briercliffe Council School from 24th February to 7th March, 1919 ; the closures of Church of England School, Fence, 10th November to 21st November, and 25th November to 5th December.

For Measles : Church of England School, Foulridge (Infant Department), 15th December to 19th December ; Church of England School, Newchurch-in-Pendle, 15th December to 19th December.

The following schools were fumigated with formalin gas, after spraying with formalin :—

Fence, Church of England School ;

Wheatley Lane, Wesleyan School ; and

Foulridge, Church of England Schools (both departments).

MILK SUPPLY.

150 inspections have been made of dairies and cowsheds. The cowsheds in this district are stone buildings, generally open to and part of the barn. The floors are paved, concreted or flagged, and the windows are made to open at the top for ventilation. Ventilating tiles for the extraction of foul air are often fixed along the ridge. I am pleased to say that the farmers generally, are beginning to realise the importance of the shippons being properly ventilated. Experience teaches that they are very conservative and strongly held by old-fashioned methods, and the air vents are often blocked up with hay. Still the use of the thermometer is occasionally found, and I find a temperature of 60 degrees mostly desired. Not many improvements have been carried out at the shippons during the year. Here again the impossiblity of obtaining materials except at exorbitant prices has undoubtedly retarded progressive movement. The floors of the shippons at one farm have been relaid in concrete, and new windows fixed, and at another a new manure tank has been built.

The milk supply of the district has been abundant, and evidence has been forthcoming that the price has militated against the unstinted use of this valuable article of food ; people having reduced the consumption per household.

The shippons were generally found to be clean and the lime-washing done at the proper times. In only one case was it necessary to complain of the neglect to clean up the floors. With regard to the cleanliness of the cattle more powers are necessary to compel grooming of the cattle, especially during the winter months when the cattle are only turned out for watering. During this period of confinement the hind quarters become very filthy, the result of the animal lying down in its own dung, and the swinging of the tail may easily knock off particles into the milk pail.

The use of such insanitary stuff as screenings from cotton waste factories is not largely indulged, and is discouraged wherever found.

One case of anthrax was suspected at Simonstone, but the report of the veterinary examination showed the suspicion was unfounded.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Little use has been made of the slaughter-houses during the year. Even those few butchers who possess a "live permit," must obtain permission to slaughter graded cattle on their premises. Most of the butchers obtain their meat from the Government Slaughter-houses in the adjoining towns.

This scheme undoubtedly makes for the better supervision and examination of carcases while all the organs are present, and gives a certain guarantee of the quality of the meat. It is impossible in such a scattered area as this to exercise that supervision over the slaughter-houses as one would desire.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relative to certain defects remediable under the Public Health Acts. The factories were visited and the complaints received attention.

Alterations have been carried out, and additional conveniences built at other factories. No complaints arose at any of the workshops.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year were as follows :—

	1919.		1918.	
	Cases.	*Deaths.*	*Cases.*	*Deaths.*
Scarlet Fever	22	—	12	—
Typhoid	2	—	4	2
Diphtheria	36	2	1	—
Erysipelas	4	—	9	—
Malaria	3	—	—	—
†Measles	159	1	353	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	2	3	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	32	11	*	39
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	3	—
Totals	264	16	385	41

† Ceased to be compulsorily notifiable on 21st December, 1919.

* Not notifiable until 1st March, 1919.

The following table gives the distribution of Infectious disease among the various townships :—

TOWNSHIP.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Malaria.	Measles.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Fever.	Influenza Pneumonia.	Ophthamia Neonatorum.	Total Cases.
Altham	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	9
Barley	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Blacko	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Briercliffe	4	1	2	..	..	9	..	..	6	..	22
Cliviger	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	13
Dunnockshaw	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Foulridge	..	..	..	1	..	24	..	..	1	..	26
Goldshaw	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Habergham	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	4
Hapton	1	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	7	1	13
Higham	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	4	..	9
Huncoat	..	..	1	..	1	31	..	..	3	1	37
Ightenhill	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Northtown	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
Old Laund Booth	1	..	4	..	..	32	1	1	..	..	39
Newchurch	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	17
Reedley Hallows	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Roughlee	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	6
Sabden	5	..	25	3	..	5	..	..	4	..	42
Simonstone	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Worsthorne	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Total	22	2	36	4	3	159	1	2	32	3	264

No notification of infectious diseases has been received from Read.

Barley, Reedley Hallows, Roughlee Booth and Worsthorne are the townships from which only measles were notified.

This year there has been a serious increase in the number of cases, apart from measles, the principal increase being caused by diphtheria of which we have 35 more cases.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 22 cases of Scarlet Fever reported, as against 12 for the previous year. 8 of these cases occurred at Cliviger, 4 of which were removed to the Sanatorium. 2 cases occurred at one house, but apart from this no connection was traceable from one case to another.

DIPHTHERIA.

It is rather disturbing to note that of the 36 cases notified, no fewer than 25 came from Sabden. In fact Sabden has been particularly unfortunate, no less than 42 cases of infectious disease being certified during the year.

The second case of diphtheria to be notified from Sabden occurred at a farm. The first patient, which was a severe case and died upon reaching the Sanatorium, had been in close contact with the second patient, and was most probably the source of infection. In subsequent cases it was found the milk was supplied from this farm, therefore I thought it desirable that the milk supply should be stopped. This step I took and prohibited the farmer from retailing milk in the village for one week. I also took exception to the water supply at the farm and a new water main was laid. The peculiarity of the outbreak at Sabden was the manner in which they have continued to crop up. After I thought we had got clear another case would be notified, and in spite of all enquiries I was unable to trace back infection to a previous case or to a common source. I paid several visits to the township and examined the throats of several children present in the schools. One child was suffering from a sore throat, a swab was taken and examined with a positive result. The next case was reported a month later.

Numerous other throat swabs were taken, but the results were not helpful. Of 12 swabs examined 9 gave a negative result.

Many of the cases were of a very mild nature.

12 cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Sanatorium.

I firmly believe in administering a full dose of Anti toxin at an early stage. Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge. Usually the medical practitioners obtain it and forward the account for same to the Council.

MALARIA.

The three notifications received all related to discharged soldiers who had contracted the disease over-seas.

INFLUENZA.

This year's epidemic reached its climax in March, during which month 28 of the 32 notifications were received.

The attacks generally were brief but very severe, acute illness only lasting 2 or 3 days, but leav ng the patient very weak.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

This case was notified from Old Laund Booth, and at the time of visiting the patient was running about.

Full details were forwarded to the County Medical Officer and the Ministry of Health.

Immediately upon the receipt of notification of infectious diseases, the houses are visited for the purpose of ascertaining if possible the source of infection, and also for giving instructions to prevent the spread of the disease.

After the recovery of the patient, or if removed to Sanatorium, immediately after such removal, the infected rooms and bedding are properly disinfected either with formalin vapour or by spraying with formalin.

There is no steam disinfecting plant in the district, but arrangements have been made with the Burnley Corporation Health Department for the removal and disinfecting of bedding at their disinfecting station.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of Primary Notifications received from Medical Practitioners, Form A (particulars of which are given hereunder), 27. An increase of 3 on the previous year.

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*	1918.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	8	8	16	11
Lymphatic Gland	—	—	—	1
Cervical Glands	2	3	5	—
Tuberculosis of :				
Finger	—	1	1	—
Inquinal Glands	1	—	1	—
Bowel	1	—	1	—
Rib	1	—	1	—
Minenges of Brain	1	—	1	—
Intestines	—	1	1	—
Totals	14	13	27	12

There were 9 deaths from Tuberculosis.

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS NOTIFIED.

Cotton Operatives	7
Household Duties.....	4

Occupations of Persons Notified.—*Continued.*

Ex-Soldiers	5
Clerk	1
Not stated	10

5 persons were discharged from Sanatorium during the year.

A copy of each notification is forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and also to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district. The County Council now have one Tuberculosis Health Visitor in our district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Supervising Authority is the County Council, as in schemes for the treatment of Tuberculosis, The Midwives Act, and the Notification of Births Act, and by this means the unification of home visiting, and the supervision of children under 5 years of age, by the Health Visitor, also appointed by the County Council, is secured. The initiation and organisation of a Voluntary Child Welfare Centre for Briercliffe is well advanced. Arrangements were completed to open the Centre early in 1920, and the County Medical Officer of Health's co-operation has been given to the scheme. He has arranged for the regular attendance at the Centre of a doctor and a Health Visitor, both County Officers for this area. The launching of the scheme was very enthusiastic and the attendance very satisfactory indeed.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

One Inspector of Nuisances has charge of the whole district, and devotes the whole of his time to the duties. In addition to carrying out the usual duties, the Council have appointed him Inspector under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, and under the Housing Act,1909.

There are two hospitals of which the Council have joint use, along with the Burnley Corporation, and the Urban Districts of Brierfield and Padiham. These are situate at Kibble Bank in the Borough of Burnley and at Crown Point, Habergham Eaves in our area. The latter is used for Smallpox cases.

HOUSING.

Number of houses inspected for purposes of Housing Acts	5
Dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	3
Representations with a view to making Closing Orders	3
Closing Orders made	3
Dwelling-house in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders	2
Dwelling-houses put in fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders	3
Dwelling-houses demolished	0

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST.

The roof of one house came in. Fortunately the occupants had just gone downstairs and so escaped injury.

The gable wall of one house was bulging outwards in a dangerous manner. This wall was pulled down and rebuilt.

The other defects were general dilapidations and insufficient closet accommodation.

All this block of property has been re-roofed, all new windows to open put in, the bedroom ceilings raised and a closet and coal place built for each house.

OVERCROWDING.

There were many cases of overcrowding during the war, due mainly to families living together for the purpose of economy. Since the Armistice, however, these cases are considerably fewer, and houses that were formerly empty are now occupied, so that the pressure for housing accommodation is more acute, especially in some townships, and whenever a house is to let there are several applicants, and in some cases I have heard of people waiting to be married who cannot get a house or one they considered suitable.

In some cases where a house is to let there is a general move round amongst tenants who are waiting for each others houses. This is and has been the case at Sabden, whilst at Hapton at least 14 families were without a house and were living with friends, and in one instance three families were occupying a four-roomed house. Such cases are,however, fewer than they were in the earlier part of the year.

The general standard of houses varies with the townships. In the more Urban areas, where development has been more marked, the type most favoured includes scullery, living room and parlour, with a waste water closet, and dust bin in the yard. They are substantially built of stone and cover an area of about 750 square feet.

In the areas more distinctly rural little change has been effected in the last few years, many of the houses being old and the rooms low ; but in these cases the standard of sanitary arrangements is comparatively high, reflecting credit alike upon the inhabitants and the continuous attention of your Sanitary Inspector, both the previous and present one.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is incorporated in this, and notwithstanding many defects and requirements the condition of the district is one for congratulation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. J. ROBINSON,

June 1st, 1920. *Medical Officer of Health.*